GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3807
ANSWERED ON:08.04.2003
PLIGHT OF DESTITUTE AND WIDOWS
P.C. THOMAS

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the plight of destitute and widows across the country;

(b) if so, the schemes targeted for ameliorating their plight;

(c) whether the Government have carried out any study or appointed any committee to study the plight of destitute and widows; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The National Policy for the Empowerment of Women adopted by the Government calls for undertaking measures and programmes to provide special assistance to women belonging to specially disadvantaged sections such as disabled, widows, elderly women, deserted women etc. The Government has also launched a scheme called 'Swadhar' for women in distress which would take care of the needs of all categories of women in difficult circumstances, including destitute women and widows needing care and protection.

(c)&(d) Uttar Pradesh State Social Welfare AdvisoryBoard had conducted a survey on the situation of widows and other women in Vrindavan and adjoining areas of Uttar Pradeshin 1998. The West Bengal Commission for Women had also conducted a survey of Bengali women in Vrindavan in 2000. Apart from above, the National Commission for Women(NCW) hadcommissioned a study of widows living in Vrindavan and adjoining areas in 1996.